(xii) Futures trading in Rice, Urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 and continues during 2009-10. Futures trading in sugar was suspended w.e.f. 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.

(xiii) Distribution of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy of Rs.15/kg.

(xiv) To augment availability of pulses, permitted the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED to import and sell pulses under a scheme and the losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.

(xv) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg to State Governments.

(xvi) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton basis.

(xvii) Increased quota of levy sugar to 20% with effect from 1.10.2009

(xviii) For the month of Nov., 2009, a quantity of 15.00 lakh tons of non levy sugar has been made available which includes 10.50 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 1.45 lakh tons of refined raw sugar imported by sugar mills. The estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.50 lac ton. Besides, the validity period of Oct. 2009 non-levy quota has since been extended for the first fortnight up to 25.10.2009 and for the second fortnight upto 10.11.2009, it is expected about 1.55 lakh ton of sugar would be spill over quota of Oct. 09.

Sugar stock in the country

1725. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only two months sugar stock is available in the country;

(b) if so, the immediate action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the reasons for such shortage of sugar;

(d) whether Government is planning to import sugar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The opening stocks of sugar on the commencement of current 2009-10 sugar season were hardly enough to meet requirement of the first two months of this season. The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stock of sugar is given in statement (*See* below). The low production of sugar

in 2008-09 sugar season is mainly on account of reduction in area and lower production of sugarcane in the crop year 2007-08 (Sugar Season 2008-09) and higher diversion of cane to usages other than manufacturing of sugar.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Central Government, however, has facilitated duty-free import of raw and white/refined by sugar mills, Central/States agencies and merchant importers-exporters with a view augment domestic stocks of sugar.

Statement

Measures taken by the Central Government to augment domestic stocks of sugar.

- Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills at zero duty upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills, later extended upto 31.03.2010. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Import of raw sugar was opened to private trade upto 31.03.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Allowed duty free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tonnes by 01.08.2009 which was extended upto 30.11.2009. Further, duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has also been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies, upto 30.11.2009. This has been further extended upto 31.03.2010 and the cap on import of white/refined sugar has been removed.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.
- States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar so as to make the imports competitive.

Bogus caste certificate cases in FCI

1726. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bogus caste certificate cases in FCI as on 31 March, 2009, State-wise and cadre-wise;

(b) the details of pending cases and reasons for delay; and

(c) the action taken against the officers who have failed to verify caste certificate at the time of recruitment?